UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1997/791
13 October 1997
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

LETTER DATED 13 OCTOBER 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to draw to your attention the fact that on 11 October 1997, a convoy of heavily armed men entered Congolese territory through the village of Pangui in Kimongo District, coming from Cabinda Province in the Republic of Angola.

The convoy consisted of five tanks, two BM-21, seven OURAL-37J personnel-carriers, two tank trucks, one engineer vehicle, one tank transporter, three Chilcas and tractor-drawn guns.

The convoy was deployed in the town of Kimongo, where it took District administrative and police officials hostage and seized all weapons at the police stations and military posts. The troops, estimated at approximately 1,000, wore either Congolese or Angolan army uniforms; some spoke French or Congolese national languages while others spoke Portuguese or English.

This act of aggression, which occurred just as the armed opposition was declaring that it had laid siege to Brazzaville International Airport and the presidential palace, in open contradiction to the facts on the ground, would appear to constitute active support for the opposition.

The Government of the Republic of the Congo condemns this involvement of the Republic of Angola in the current hostilities. The Government of the Republic of the Congo fails to see how the Angolan authorities - who are well aware of the heavy price paid by the Congolese people, in particular those in the Niari region, the current target, for their support of the struggle for independence waged by the Movimento Popular de Libertação de Angola (MPLA), especially during the tragic hours immediately preceding and following Angola's declaration of independence on 11 November 1975 - could authorize terrorist attacks against our country from their territory, thereby aggravating the troubling situation that has prevailed in the Republic of the Congo since 5 June 1997.

I also wish to inform you that on 13 October 1997, at 6 p.m. Brazzaville time, two unidentified military aircraft flew over the Congolese capital and dropped bombs, killing at least 20 civilians.

In view of the gravity of these developments, the Government of the Republic of the Congo requests that an emergency meeting of the Security Council be convened so that the Council, in exercise of its responsibilities under the Charter of the United Nations, can take the requisite preventive measures to halt such actions, which undermine the territorial integrity and national sovereignty of the Republic of the Congo and constitute a grave threat to peace and security in the Central African subregion.

The Government of the Republic of the Congo solemnly denies the allegations by the Luanda authorities of attacks on Angola by the Congo which are being used to justify raids by Angolan troops on Congolese territory.

(Signed) Daniel ABIBI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative